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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Lecture examines legacy of Civil War, Emancipation" (2008). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 20790.
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NEWS RELEASE

Jan. 11, 2008

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LECTURE EXAMINES LEGACY OF CIVIL WAR, EMANCIPATION

MISSOULA –

A leading expert on the Civil War will give the next installment of the President's Lecture Series at The University of Montana on Friday, Jan. 25.

Yale University history Professor David Blight will present "Salves No More: Two Recently Discovered Slave Narratives and the Story of Emancipation" at 8 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom.

Earlier that day from 3:10 to 4:30 p.m., Blight also will give a seminar titled "The Civil War and Emancipation in American Memory" in Gallagher Business Building Room 123.

Both events are free and open to the public.

Blight's seminal book, "Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory," was published in 2001 and won eight awards, including the prestigious Bancroft Prize.

His lecture will explore the realities of black emancipation in the United States in light of the research for his latest book, "A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom, Including Their Narratives of Emancipation," published last year. The

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book combines two newly discovered slave narratives in a volume that recovers the lives of their authors, John Washington and Wallace Turnage.

Blight earned a history degree in 1954 from Yale University and a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He joined the Yale faculty in 2003. Previously he taught at Harvard University and Amherst College and was senior Fulbright Professor in American Studies at the University of Munich, Germany, during 1992-93. In 2004 he succeeded David Brion Davis as director of Yale University's Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance and Abolition.

During 2006-07, Blight was a fellow at the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Writers and Scholars at the New York Public Library.

Among his many books are "Beyond the Battlefield: Race, Memory and the American Civil War" and "Frederick Douglass's Civil War: Keeping Faith in Jubilee." He frequently reviews books for the Washington Post Book World, the Chicago Tribune, the Los Angeles Times, the Boston Globe and other newspapers and has written many articles on abolitionism, American historical memory and African American intellectual and cultural history.

Blight also has been a consultant to several documentary films, including the 1998 PBS series "Africans in America."

His presentation at UM on Jan. 25 replaces a President's Lecture Series event that was to feature David Brion Davis of Yale University originally scheduled for Jan. 28. Davis had to cancel his event because of health issues.

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